



PRAIRIE DOGS AND TERABYTES:

A Brief History of Digital Archiving in Washington

Presented by Jerry Handfield and Larry Cebula

Deep in the Digital Archives Conference

September 21 – 24, 2010



Where's the archives?

ARCHIVES AND POWER

- Archives are at least 6000 years old
- Property records, business records, laws and decrees, history
- Property of the ruler
- Booty of war—Alexander seizes “the royal skins” from Persia

Image: King Sennacherib and the royal scribes tour a battlefield, 700 B.C.



ARCHIVES AND ACCESS



“By lot is chosen also a secretary called Secretary of the Presidency. He has supreme power over public records, keeps the texts of the decrees, keeps transcripts of all other business and sits in the meetings of the Council. Formerly he was elected by show of hands and the most illustrious and trustworthy citizens were appointed to the office. In fact, his name is inscribed on pillars at the head of the texts of alliances and degrees granting to aliens citizenship”

Aristotle, 384 BC – 322 BC

WASHINGTON STATE DIGITAL ARCHIVES

- Est. 2004
- Mission: preservation of electronic records from both State and Local agencies that have permanent legal, fiscal or historical value
- ~~32 56 75~~ 92,285,770 records*—and counting
- Such as?

* as of 9 p.m. 9/22/2010



BIRTH, DEATH, MARRIAGE RECORDS

COUNTY AUDITOR, SPOKANE, WASH.

County of Spokane **CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE**
 Town of Spokane **LICENSE NO. A** **No 16087**
 City of Spokane **PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS**

GROOM		BRIDE	
Full Name	<u>King Corn</u>	Full Name	<u>Lucy Alfalfa</u>
Residence	<u>Spokane, Wash</u>	Residence	<u>Yakima, Wash</u>
Age at last Birthday	<u>17</u> years	Age at last Birthday	<u>16</u> years
Color or Race	<u>White Dent</u>	Color or Race	<u>Green</u>
Single, Widowed or Divorced	<u>Single</u>	Single, Widowed or Divorced	<u>Single</u>
Number of Marriage		Number of Marriage	
Birthplace (State or Country)	<u>Spokane</u>	Birthplace (State or Country)	<u>Yakima</u>
Occupation	<u>Building up the Community</u>	Occupation	<u>Helping King Corn</u>
Name of Father	<u>Old King Corn</u>	Name of Father	<u>Sather Alfalfa</u>
Birthplace of Father (State or Country)	<u>Ill</u>	Birthplace of Father (State or Country)	<u>Asia</u>
Maiden Name of Mother	<u>Mother Corn</u>	Maiden Name of Mother	<u>Mama Alfalfa</u>
Birthplace of Mother (State or Country)	<u>Iowa</u>	Birthplace of Mother (State or Country)	<u>Asia</u>
Maiden name of Bride, if she was previously married			
We, the groom and bride named in this certificate, hereby certify that the information given herein is correct, to the best of our knowledge and belief			
<u>King Corn</u> Groom		<u>Lucy Alfalfa</u> Bride	
CERTIFICATE OF PERSON PERFORMING CEREMONY			
I HEREBY CERTIFY, that <u>King Corn</u> and <u>Lucy Alfalfa</u> were joined in Marriage by me			
In accordance with the laws of the state of Washington, at this <u>23</u> day of <u>Sept</u> , 191 <u>3</u>			
Signature of Witnesses to marriage	<u>W. J. Burrell</u> <u>W. J. Burrell</u>	Signature of person performing the ceremony	<u>Wm. Buckner</u>
RESIDENCE	<u>Spokane</u>	OFFICIAL STATION	<u>Justice of the Peace</u>
SEP 24 1913	<u>N. St. Butler</u>	(Country Auditor)	<u>Spokane</u>

1913 Marriage Certificate for King Corn and Queen Alfalfa

Washington State Digital Archives document # easpmca16087

Naturalization Records

63

No. 259 ORIGINAL

Department of Commerce and Labor
NATURALIZATION SERVICE.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DECLARATION OF INTENTION
(Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

I, Frank Clare Brown, aged 25 years,
occupation farm hand, do declare on oath that my personal
description is: Color white, complexion dark, height 5 feet 9 inches,
weight 160 pounds, color of hair brown, color of eyes brown,
other visible distinctive marks none.
I was born in Haverfordwest, Wales
on the 11 day of April, anno Domini 1886; I now reside
at Springdale, Wash.
I emigrated to the United States of America from Denmark, B. C.
on the vessel S. N. Rydman, my last
foreign residence was Denmark, B. C.
It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign
prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to George V
King of Great Britain and Ireland, of which I am now a subject; I
arrived at the port of Eastport, in the
State of Maine, on or about the 10 day
of Sept., anno Domini 1906; I am not an anarchist; I am not a
polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith
to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein;
SO HELP ME GOD.

Frank Clare Brown
(original signature of declarant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 31st
day of April, anno Domini 1912.
[SEAL] W. S. Johnson
Clerk of the Superior Court.
By M. J. Shilton Dip. Clerk.

1912 Naturalization Certificate for Frank Clare Brown

“I am not an anarchist, I am
not a polygamist nor a
believer in the practice of
polygamy...”

Washington State Digital Archives
document # eastvndec_259

Census Records

DETAIL: 1860 SPOKANE COUNTY CENSUS

OCCUPATIONS
INCLUDE CLERK,
BOATMAN,
LABORER,
ATTENDANT,
WOODSMAN,
CARPENTER,
PACKER

First Ounce												Second Ounce											
numbered in the order of violation.		Families numbered in order of violation.		DESCRIPTION.			Profession, Occupation, or Trade of each person, male and female, over 15 years of age.		VALUE OF ESTATE OWNED.		Place of Birth, Naming the State, Territory, or Country.		Married within the year.		Attended School within the year.								
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17							
		Brian King	31	M		Clerk			Penn.														
		D. Donovan	20	"		Laborer			Ireland														
		J. V. Handman	20	"		Instrument Maker			N. Y.														
		John Brindley	30	"		Horseman			Ireland														
		E. L. Boulton	27	"		Laborer			Texas														
		John Tordew	26	"		Attendant			Ireland														
		Pat. Murphy	29	"		"			"														
		Rose Lightbody	34	"		Housewife			Maine														
		G. Robertson	31	"		Laborer			Germany														
		John Smith	34	"		"			Maine														
		James Gentry	26	"		"			N. H.														
		Martin Gruber	25	"		Carpenter			Germany														
		John Bridgely	30	"		Laborer			Vt.														
		Thomas Leonard	26	"		"			New														
		Michael Connel	35	"		"			Ireland														
		John Worley	32	"		"			N. S.														
		John Dealony	36	"		Tailor			Ireland														
		John Canham	31	"		Packer			Oregon														
		J. Mc Mannis	29	"		Bookie			Ireland														
		J. Hollywood	30	"		Laborer			"														
		Geo. Davies	35	"		Clerk			N. Y.														
		W. Bullow	30	"		Laborer			Ireland														
		Thos. Barclay	35	"		"			Tenn														
		Chas. Coors	33	"		"			Ireland														
		Mr. W. Owens	36	"		Black			N. C.														

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS



Boeing 314
Clipper, with
Mt. Rainier in
the
background, ca.
1945

Washington State
Digital Archives
document # [AR-
07809001-ph000158](#)

...AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

25 available collections

- Audio Recordings
- Military Records
- Oaths of Office
- Plats and Surveys
- Property Records
- Court Records
- Ordinance Records
- Institution Records
- Etc. etc. etc.

Where Convicted.	Date of Conviction.	When Received.	Convicted of	Term of Sentence.	Sentence Expires.	When Discharged.	REMARKS
Seattle	Apr 19	Apr 26	Assault with a knife	6 mths	26 Oct	Oct 5	Rebate 400 Synoid
Cherry		Apr 25	1 Year			Apr 26	Seine Express Co
Seattle	May 16	May 18	1 Year		May 18	May 26	Rebate u. Quinn
Washington	May 19	May 21	1 Year		May 21	May 27	"
Alto	June 10	July 10	murder	7 "	Jan 10	Jan 10	
Yakima	Oct 18	Oct 23	Bultery	2 "	Oct 18	Oct 18	Rebate 10 July 86
Seattle	" 28	" 30	" "	1 1/2 "	Oct 28		Rebate 50 Jan 86
"	" 28	" 30	Gr. Larceny	2 "	Oct 28		" July 20 86
"	" 28	" 30	" "	2 "	" "		" 20 86
"	" 28	" 30	M. Larceny	3 "	" "		Exempt Jan 26
"	" 28	" 30	Gr. Larceny	4 "	" "		Exempt 25 Oct 85
"	" 28	" 30	Gr. Larceny	5 "	" "		
Vancouver	Nov 1st	Nov 18	Murder	7 "	" "		
W. W.	" 24	" 25	Assault	15 mths			Rebate 19 Feb 86
"	" 27	" 3	" "	18 "	Mar 27		Rebate Mar 20 86
Dayton	July 10	July 16	Murder	3 yrs			
"	" 9	" 16	Larceny	5 "			
Chickadee	" 16	" 17	Murder	18 M	Apr 26		Rebate May 7 86
P. Townsend	Feb 28	Mar 2	"	12 mths			
Pomey	" 21	" 2	Shooting	12 M			Rebate 500 2/85
"	" 21	" 2	"	6 M			Rebate
Emmons	Mar 12	" 17	"	"			
Seattle	Apr 18	Apr 26	Murder	2 yrs			Exempt Jan 26 12 AM
Cherry	" 13	May 26	"	2 "			Exempt July 20 86
Walla Walla	May 20	" 26	Gr. Larceny	2 "			Exempt Oct
"	"	"	Bultery	2 "			

WHY WASHINGTON STATE?

“Perfect Storm” of Factors:

- Local high-tech industry
- Robust economy, strong revenues
- Visionary Leadership
- Support of Local Government
- Proliferation of “born digital” records
- Tech advances in scanning, storing
- Legal concerns about preserving records



Digital Archives under construction, June
2003

(photo courtesy Sherry Bays)

WASHINGTON STATE = HIGH TECH

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YAHOO!®


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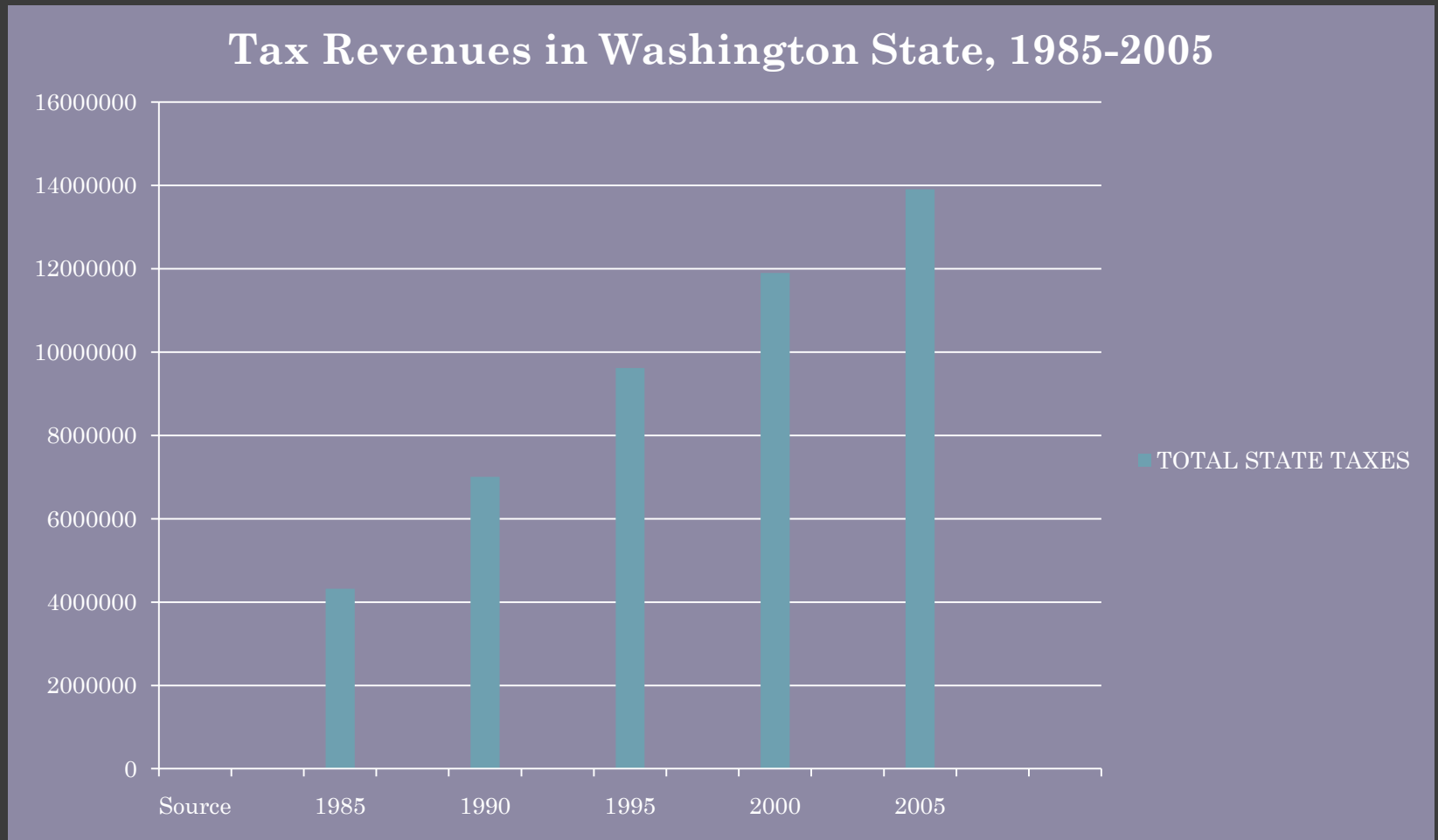
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 **Zillow.com®**

 **BOEING**

 **KEY®**
TECHNOLOGY
*Automated Solutions
for Processors Worldwide...*

STRONG STATE REVENUES



VISIONARY LEADERSHIP

Phil Coombs (1946-2001)

“He recognized that with so many documents being born digital, we had to find a new way to retain records that have historic, legal or fiscal value.” -- Sherry Bays, eastern Washington regional archivist



Vision continued under Secretary of State Sam Reed and Washington State Archivist Jerry Handfield

SUPPORT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Washington's County Clerks and Auditors
- Politically powerful and in every corner of the state
- Proliferation of “born digital” records
- State archives not accepting



BORN DIGITAL RECORDS

- Increasing numbers, importance
- Email, spreadsheets, websites, electronic publications
- No analog counterpart
- All media degrade over time

'Digital Dark Age' May Doom Some Data

ScienceDaily (Oct. 29, 2008) — What stands a better chance of surviving 50 years from now, a framed photograph or a 10-megabyte digital photo file on your computer's hard drive?

See also:

Matter & Energy

The framed photograph will inevitably fade and yellow over time, but the digital photo file may be unreadable

“If Abraham Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address on a laptop we may not have it today.”

- Washington Secretary of State Sam Reed (2004)

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

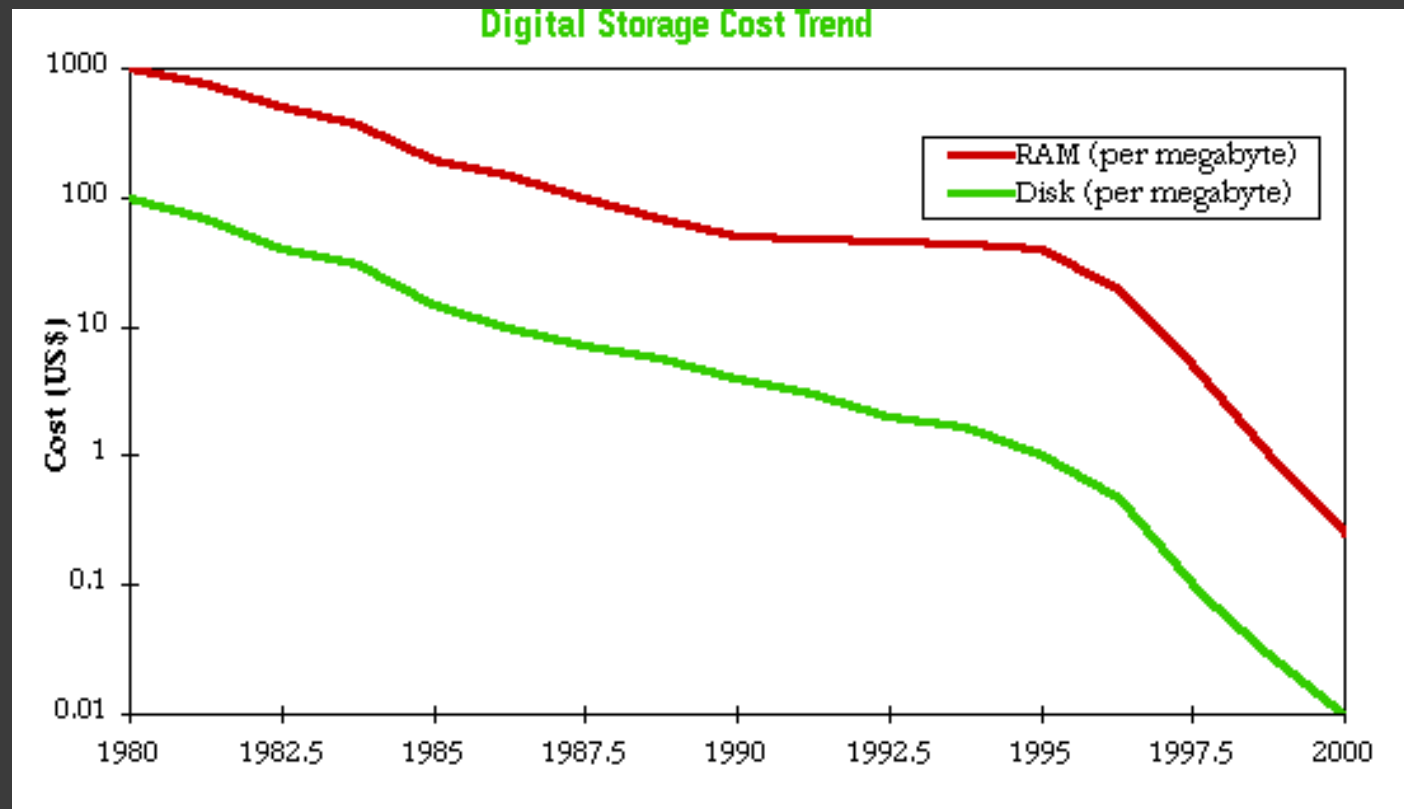
Federal Freedom of Information Act (1966)

Washington Public Records Act (1972)

- “The people insist on remaining informed so that they may maintain control over the instruments that they have created.”
- Includes electronic records
- June 2009 Department of Labor and Industries ordered to pay \$500,000 for ignoring a records request

Similar laws in most states, many local governments

DECLINING COSTS



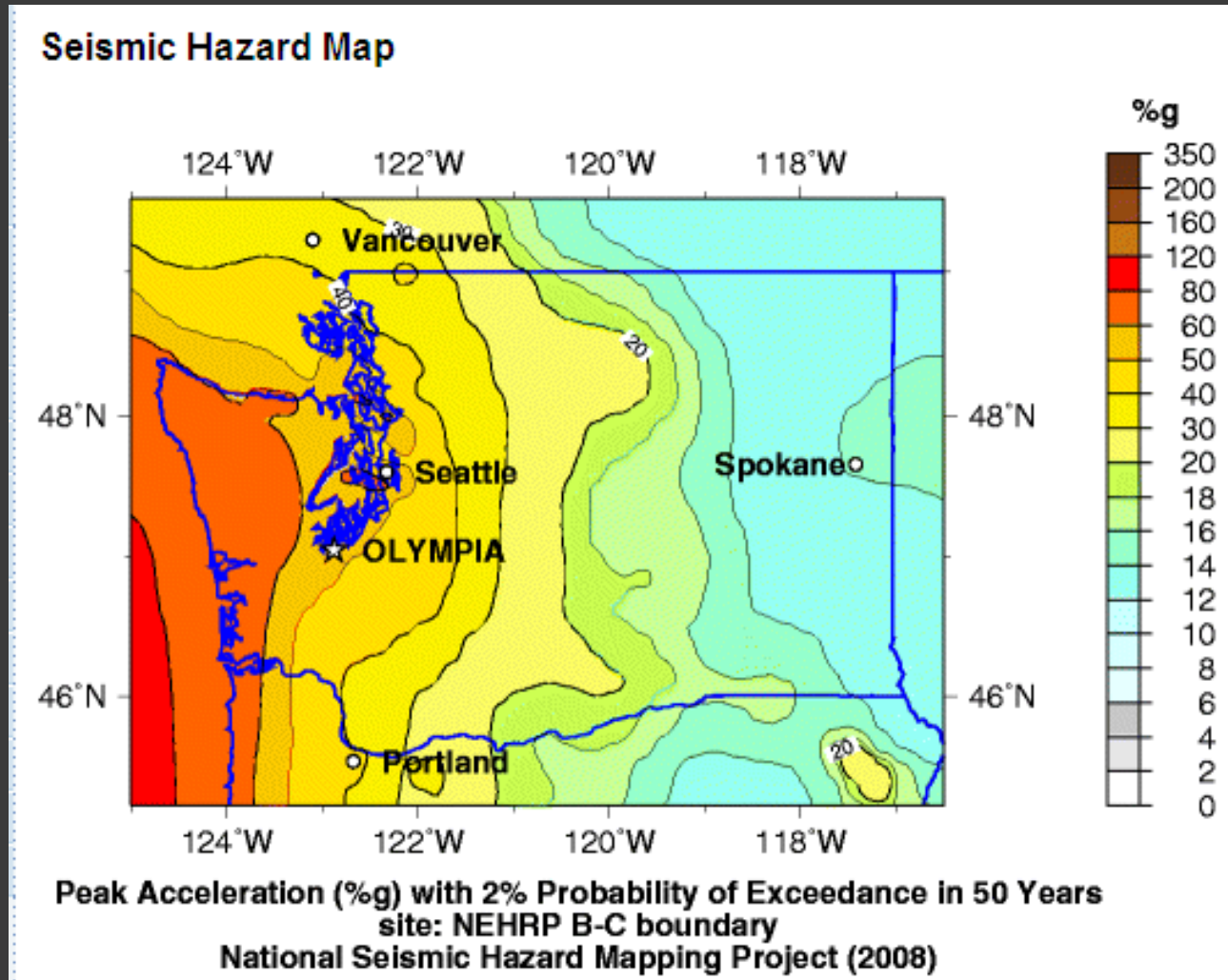
Source: [Northwestern University](#)

2003 FEASIBILITY STUDY

“As part of the feasibility analysis, alternatives to development of a centralized Digital Archives were discussed and subsequently rejected. No other alternative would meet existing legal mandates, adequately protect against the current loss of electronic archival records, or be as cost effective.”

-Washington State Digital Archives Feasibility Study, 8/2003

BUT WHY IN CHENEY?



CONSTRUCTION

FEBRUARY 2003



APRIL 2003





JUNE 2004



PRESERVATION GOVERNOR LOCKE'S WEBSITE - 2004



INTERNATIONAL VISITORS 2005-PRESENT

- Pictured: 2005 delegation from China
- Also visitors from the British Library, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the National Government of Australia, Canada, and many states



LOC / MULTI-STATE PRESERVATION PROJECT

- Began 2007
- Funded by the Library of Congress via the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program
- Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, Oregon
- “The Other National Archives”



AUDIO SEARCH CAPABILITIES

Search Options

Record Series:

Audio Recordings

What Does this include?

County:

- All Counties -

Title:

House of Representatives Committee Meeting Recordings

Source:

Committee, Agency, Etc
- All Sources -
Keywords to search for in the audio

Keywords:

cheney

Examples:

Try searching for phrases by using quotes:
ex. "essential things for fish" or "Eastern Washington University"
Try narrowing your search by selecting a committee from the drop down list above.

Year:

From

To

Search

Clear Form

Search Results

	Date: 1979/03/20 Duration: Title:House of Representatives Committee Meeting Recordings Source:HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE ...y.i.-c.e.p.-r.-e.-s. cheney — — ...
	Date: 2001/02/01 Duration: Title:House of Representatives Committee Meeting Recordings Source:AGRICULTURE & ECOLOGY COMMITTEE ... — — cheney i. guess all of ... cheney is on one of the boards and and uh i feel better about that and and uh ...
	Date: 1985/04/09 Duration: Title:House of Representatives Committee Meeting Recordings Source:COMMERCE & LABOR COMMITTEE ...
	Date: 1973/02/10 Duration: Title:House of Representatives Committee Meeting Recordings Source:CONSTITUTION & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE ...that neil cheney ...
	Date: 1979/02/15



[Click here to download plugin.](#)

Audio Search is based on Microsoft Research beta technology and is provided on an "as is", and as-"available basis", and all warranties and liability are disclaimed with respect to functionality or availability of the service. The availability of the service from this site may be terminated at any time. The service may not be resold or otherwise provided through sites other than the State of Washington Digital Archives Site.

IMAGE BROWSING - 2009

Title:

- All Titles -

person, place, or thing

Keywords:

lantern slides

People

Photographer

Additional Criteria:

From

















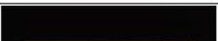

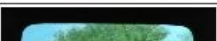

To

Year:

Search

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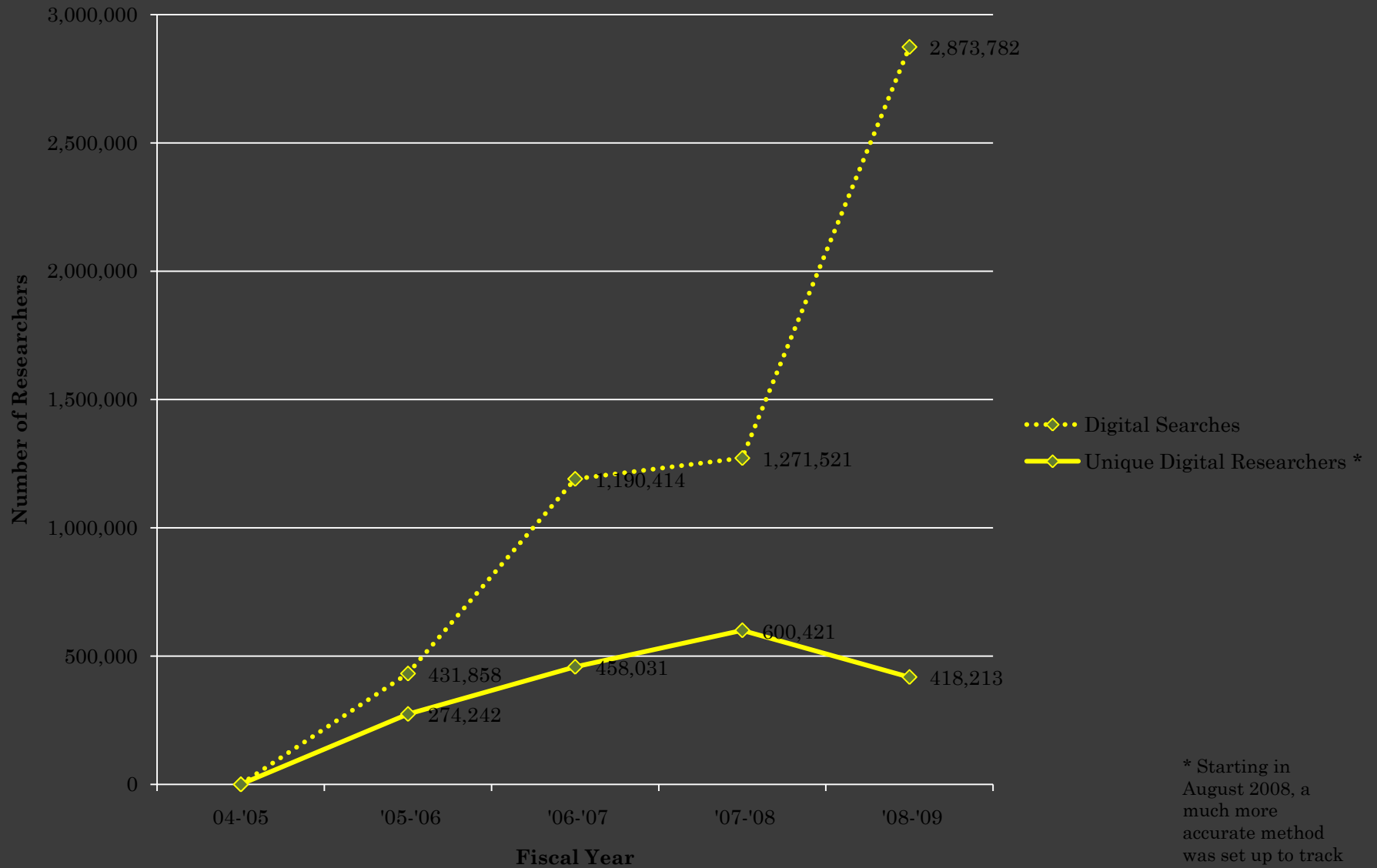
Search Results

 <p>19,000,000 acre-feet of water</p> <p>1935</p>	 <p>Albany Falls of the Pend Oreille River / Asahel Curtis</p> <p>1920-1930</p>	 <p>Ask your Senator and Congressman to help</p> <p>1930-1940</p>	 <p>Bathing beach, Soap Lake</p> <p>1920-1930</p>	 <p>Bloom time in the Wenatchee Valley / Asahel Curtis</p> <p>1920-1930</p>
 <p>A super deluxe special : Steamboat Rock</p> <p>1920-1930</p>	 <p>Aldrich Motors & Garage, unknown town in central o</p> <p>1920-1930</p>	 <p>Aurora Avenue Bridge on Skyline, Seattle</p> <p>1920-1930</p>	 <p>Bathing in Loon Lake near Spokane / Asahel Curtis</p> <p>1920-1930</p>	 <p>Bridge over an unknown stream in the forest / Asah</p> <p>1920-1930</p>
 <p>Abandoned homestead southwest of Ephrata / Asahel</p> <p>1920-1930</p>	 <p>Alhambra Cabins, Soap Lake / DeLong</p> <p>1920-1930</p>	 <p>Aurora Avenue Bridge, Seattle</p> <p>1920-1930</p>	 <p>Battleship fleet illuminated / Asahel Curtis</p> <p>1908</p>	 <p>Bureau of Reclamation, Columbia Basin Project, Gen</p> <p>1932</p>
				

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH EWU



Digital Archives 2004-2009



The Future?

